



教育心理學系

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

25th February 2008

“TEACHING CRITICAL THINKING” PROJECT

Dear Teacher,

We are pleased to learn of your interest in the “Teaching Critical Thinking” Project co-organized by the EDB, the Department of Educational Psychology at The Chinese University of Hong Kong and the Department of Psychology at The University of Hong Kong. Information on the project is attached for your reference

Please take note of the followings in order to be considered for participation in the training and teaching of the summer course:

1. Check to see if you could attend ALL the necessary training and teaching sessions before putting in an application. Details and options are listed in the Project Information sheet as well as Section 3 of the application form.
2. Complete all sections of the application form and return it to us via email (nat.hui@gmail.com) / FAX (2603-6921; Attn. to Natalie Hui) by **10th April 2008**.
3. Optional: Submit any other supporting materials (e.g., CV, reference letter, etc.) with your application.

All enquiries should be directed to Ms. Natalie Hui (Project Coordinator) [nat.hui@gmail.com; 2603-6087/9550-5174] or Professor Kit-Tai Hau (Project Director) [kthau@cuhk.edu.hk, 2609-6944].

Please note that we will only review application forms with all sections completed. Interviews with selected applicants may be arranged if necessary. All applicants will be notified of the results of their applications by **25th April 2008**.

Thank you for your interest in the project.

With best regards,

Professor Kit-Tai Hau (Project Director)
Chair Professor, Chair of Department of Educational Psychology
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

“Teaching Critical Thinking” Project

Project Information

This project is co-organized by the Curriculum Development Institute of the Education Bureau, Professor Kit-Tai Hau of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, and Dr. Irene Ho of The University of Hong Kong. It aims at (1) training teachers on the use of the newly developed “Critical Thinking Teaching Package for Senior Secondary Students” and (2) evaluating the efficacy of different modes of critical thinking instruction. The Package was adapted from teaching materials originally designed by Professor Diane F. Halpern of Claremont McKenna College, U.S.A., who is also a past president of the American Psychological Association.

The teacher training program will consist of three phases*:

1. ***Pre-practicum training***: lecture and workshops
2. ***Practicum***: teaching a 2-week course in July-August 2008. This practicum will be in one of two modes: the main Program A (Central Critical Thinking Summer Course) or the supplementary Program B (School-based Critical Thinking Summer Course). Program A is the major focus of the current project, with 24 secondary school teachers recruited and trained to teach the course with different teaching methods. In response to the requests of some schools and teachers, Program B will be offered to a small number of teachers, who will run the program in their own schools with less organizational and teaching support. For both programs priority will be given to teachers from schools currently offering Liberal Studies and Integrated Humanities.
3. ***Post-practicum seminar***

Details about each type of program are given below:

Program A (main program)

I. Pre-practicum Training (learn how to teach):

- One large-group lecture at CUHK (3-hour session on either 5th or 6th May 2008)
- Two small-group workshops at the EDB Kowloon Tong Teacher Training Centre (3 hours each, in May & Jun 2008)(see schedule in the application form)

II. Practicum: Central Critical Thinking Summer Course (practise how to teach):

- Each instructor will co-teach with another instructor in one of the 4 classes listed below:
 1. Class A1: 22nd July to 31st July 2008 (3 morning sessions per week, each of 2.5 hours)
 2. Class A2: 22nd July to 31st July 2008 (3 afternoon sessions per week, each of 2.5 hours)
 3. Class B1: 5th Aug. to 14th Aug. 2008 (3 morning sessions per week, each of 2.5 hours)
 4. Class B2: 5th Aug. to 14th Aug. 2008 (3 afternoon sessions per week, each of 2.5 hours)

(The classes will likely be run in schools along the MTR lines.)

- Participating students will be mostly S.6 going on S.7 students from various schools, with a limited quota for S.5 and S.7 graduates as well.
- Instructors will receive on-site support throughout the entire practicum to enhance their abilities to deliver the summer course.
- An honorarium/allowance of HK\$5,000 will be provided for each instructor.

III. Post-practicum Seminar (share experiences):

- One small-group sharing seminar will be held at the EDB Kowloon Tong Teacher Training Centre on 30th Aug. 2008 (3 hours)

Responsibilities of Instructors

- Attend all pre-practicum and post-practicum training and sharing sessions
- Co-teach a class of students with another instructor using the assigned mode of teaching

Program B (supplementary program for a few schools only)

I. Pre-practicum Training (learn how to teach):

- Same as Program A above

II. Practicum: School-based Critical Thinking Summer Course (practice how to teach):

- The course could be held anytime during the summer of 2008.
- Participating students will be S. 5 to S.7 students (preferably S.6) of the participating schools or neighboring schools.
- The training team will pay one on-site visit to provide some support to the instructor and will help conduct pre- and post-course assessments on students.
- Further details to be discussed with selected schools/teachers.
- No honorarium is provided for instructors.

III. Post-practicum Seminar (share experiences):

- Same as Program A above

Responsibilities of Instructors & Schools

- Instructors should attend all pre-practicum and post-practicum training and sharing sessions.
- Instructors will teach the class using the assigned mode of teaching
- All logistics and operational matters (e.g., recruitment of students & instructors, arrangement of physical facilities, delivery of the course) will be handled by the participating teachers/schools.

* For those who are interested in the training programme without practicum, please see ‘NSS Learning & Teaching Strategies for Critical Thinking’ '新高中批判性思考學與教策略' from the following EDB links for more information.:

<http://tcs.edb.gov.hk/main/tdu/publicwd/actlistCal.asp?languageFlat=2> (Chinese version)

<http://tcs.edb.gov.hk/main/tdu/publicwd/ActListCal.asp?LanguageFlat=1> (English version)

Appendix: Major Contents of the Critical Thinking Program

Module 1: Argument Analysis

Section 1: Understanding Critical Thinking

Section 2: Identifying Argument Structure

(Reason, Assumption, Conclusion, Reason Indicators and Conclusion Indicators)

Section 3: Evaluating the Strength of Reasons

Section 4: Identifying Assumptions

Section 5: Distinguishing and Enumerating Counterarguments

Section 6: Identifying Invalid Arguments

Module 2: Evaluating Causal Claims

Section 1: Distinguishing among Opinions, Reasoned Arguments and Facts

Section 2: Understanding Cause and Effect Relationship

Section 3: Using Scientific Methods to Evaluate Product Claims

Section 4: Identifying and Analyzing Common Fallacies

Module 3: Understanding Mental Models

Section 1: How Mental Models Guide Our Thoughts and Behaviors

Section 2: Understanding and Avoiding Confirmation Bias

Module 4: Decision-making

Section 1: Difficulties in Decision-making

Section 2: Decision-making Worksheet